

REMARKS

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action by John R. Brancolini mailed 4/7/2004.

Claims 1-33 are pending in the case, none as yet allowed.

Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to provide the serial numbers and filing dates of the co-pending applications.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failure to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5).

Applicants have amended the specification to incorporate (by direct quote) material from co-pending applications which describe the material in Figure 6, EXCEPT for elements 232 and 236. A sentence not involving new matter has also been added to the specification indicating that these elements are browser frames, as shown.

Applicants have also amended the descriptions of Figure 2 and 8 to indicate the reference numbers missing from the text for those elements identified by the Examiner, and of Figure 7 (to reference Figure 7 instead of Figure 12).

35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-14, 20-25, and 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Tang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,960,173, hereinafter Tang).

Tang relates to a system for enabling awareness of and communication among users who are task proximate. These are workers who are working on the same or related data, with the same or related applications, at about the same time. (See Col. 2, lines 29-40.) However, Tang does not teach Applicants place in collaboration space, which is characterized by a main database having an access control list and a names database.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 15-18, and 26-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tang in view of Wick (U.S. Patent 6,691,162.)

Claims 19 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tang in view of Wick and the article "Using AOL's Instant Messenger (Pages 1-3, Pennsylvania State University, October 2000, hereinafter Using AIM.)

Applicants have amended all independent claims 1, 7, 20, and 31-33 (and thus, claims 15-18, 26-29, 19 and 30) to specify that chat sessions may be initiated within collaboration space only by members authenticated with respect to the access control list on a main database, and with respect to the members database, these two databases instantiating a place. None of Tang, Wick or Using AIM teach this aspect of Applicants' invention.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants urge that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1-33.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number

provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

M. Banatwala

By


Shelley M. Beckstrand
Reg. No. 24,886

Date: 5 Aug 2004

Shelley M Beckstrand, P.C.
Attorney at Law
61 Glenmont Road
Woodlawn, VA 24381-1341

Phone: (276) 238-1972
Fax: (276) 238-1545